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DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963

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DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963 in accordance with Article 15(4) and (5) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959 and Circular 1/64 of the Ministry of Health.

In 1963, the population of the Rural District showed a small decrease. The number of live births was less than in the previous year and the number of deaths was greater than in 1962.

The Report contains a record of the work of the Public Health Department.

I acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year from Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council; Mr. E.A.J. Reece, Financial Officer, and Mr. R.E. Moore, Public Health Inspector. Also I am indebted to Mr. W.H. Austin, Engineer and Manager to the Herefordshire Water Board, for information respecting the public water supplies.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record my thanks for the support which has always been given me by the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hogg

Medical Officer of Health

13th November, 1964.

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

CLERK TO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING DESIGNATED OFFICER

Mr. R.E. Moore, C.R.S.I., M.P.H.I.A.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (Part-time)

Mr. G.W. Perkins

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The District is entirely agricultural in character. There is much impressive scenery, especially in the west where the Black Mountains form a boundary.

Area (in acres)	=	84,532
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.63)	=	2,296
Rateable Value	=	£138,346
Sum represented by a penny rate	=	£600.0.0d.
Registrar General's estimated mi-year population	=	7,800
Area comparability factor (births)	=	1.13
Area comparability factor (deaths)	=	1.02

Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Births

Number of live births	=	137
Live birth rate per 1000 population (Crude)	=	17.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	=	3.6%

Stillbirths

Number of Stillbirths	=	4
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	=	28.3
Total live and still births	=	141
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	=	4

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant deaths per 1000 total live births	=	29.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	=	22.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	=	200.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 live births)	=	21.9
Early neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000 live births)	=	21.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and stillbirths)	=	49.6

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of maternal deaths	=	Nil

Population

The 1961 census population of the Rural District was 7,874. At the 1951 census, the population was 8,760.

The Registrar General's estimate of the 1963 mid-year population for the Rural District was 7,800.

This population was accommodated in 2,296 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per house of 3.40. The natural increase of population for the year (the excess of live births over deaths) was 51.

Births

The total number of live births registered during the year was 137 (77 male and 60 female), giving a crude birth rate of 17.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The corrected live birth rate, using the comparability factor of 1.13, was 19.8 per 1,000 population. The number of illegitimate births was 5 (3 male and 2 female). The live births which occurred out of wedlock formed 3.6% of the total live births. The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1963 is 18.2 per 1,000 population. In 1962, there were 145 live births in the Rural District.

Stillbirths

Four stillbirths were registered during the year, two more than in 1962. The stillbirth rate was 28.3 per 1,000 total live and still births. The stillbirth rate for the year for England and Wales was 17.3 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the area was 86 (51 male and 35 female) after deduction of deaths of non-residents occurring within the District and the addition of the deaths of residents occurring outside the Rural District. The crude death rate was 11.0 per 1,000 estimated population. The comparability factor is 0.92 and the corrected death rate of the Rural District is 10.1. The death rate for England and Wales for 1963 is 12.2 per 1,000 population.

In 1962, there were 72 deaths in the Rural District.

The most frequent cause of death continued to be various forms of heart disease (headings 18, 19 and 20) accounting for 28 deaths.

Cancer Deaths

All forms of cancer (headings 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) caused 17 deaths (8 males and 9 females).

In 1962, there were 14 deaths attributed to cancer.

The cancer death rate for England and Wales in 1963 was 2.18 per 1,000 population.

Infantile Deaths

The number of infants under one year of age who died was four (2 male and 2 female). The infant mortality rate for the Rural District was 29.2 per 1,000 live births and this rate for the year for England and Wales was 20.9 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths due to Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea

No deaths were attributed to gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea.

Deaths from Acute Notifiable Disease

Two deaths were attributed to pneumonia (2 male and 2 female). Pneumonia was the only acute Notifiable disease attributed as a cause of death.

Deaths due to Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis during 1963.
The death rate for England and Wales for 1963 from all forms of tuberculosis is 0.063 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex

List No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females	Persons
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	6	11
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	6	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	7	2	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	3	-	3
20.	Other heart disease.	9	7	16
21.	Other circulatory disease.	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis.	3	1	4
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	4	8
34.	All other accidents.	3	1	4
36.	Homicide and operations of War.	1	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
	All Causes	51	35	86

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The usual clinical laboratory investigations are made at the Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out at the Public Health Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Faeces	=	4
Water (bacteriological)	=	46

In addition, 12 samples of sewage effluent, 3 of sewage and 4 of river water were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical examination.

Hospitals

The needs of the population are met by the hospitals in the City of Hereford. Accommodation for cases of infectious disease is available at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, and the County Hospital, Hereford.

Ambulances

The ambulances in the City of Hereford are used to meet the requirements of the inhabitants of the District.

Clinics

A County Council Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Monday afternoon at Kingstone.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 50

No burials were carried out by the Council under this Section during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47

No investigations were made under this Section during the year.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology

The whole of the area is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, here represented by Upper and Lower Old Red Sandstones and Marls.

Water

All public water supplies in the Rural District are supplied by the Herefordshire Water Board; the only public supplies remaining under the control of the District Council are the public spout (Coppice Well) in Orcop and Vern View Well at St. Margarets. There is a public standpipe at Clifford and one at Dorstone.

During the year, the Herefordshire Water Board completed the service reservoir for the supply for Rowlstone, Walterstone and Lower Maes Coed. In addition, the following extensions to public water mains were constructed:-

Kingstone 22	220 yards	3 inch diameter
Orcop	4,248 yards	3 inch diameter

In the parishes of:-

Ewyas Harold)		
Rowlstone)	14,800 yards	3 inch diameter
Llancillo)	2,800 yards	4 inch diameter
Walterstone)	9,400 yards	6 inch diameter
Longtown)		
Newton)		

The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination was 46, of which 23 were from public water supplies. All were samples of water in supply and all samples from the public water mains were of good potable quality.

Improvement in the quality of water supplies available in the Stockley Hill and Long Lane areas of Peterchurch parish and in Orcop is needed.

Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining the quality of the water in Orcop from the Coppice Well. This was eventually overcome.

During 1963, there was a shortage of water in the parishes of Clifford and Orcop and part of Peterchurch parish.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is a public sewerage system in the parishes of Madley and Kingstone draining to sewage disposal works at Coldstone Common. There is a short length of public sewer in Peterchurch parish.

At the end of the year, work on the Ewyas Harold Pontrilas Sewerage Scheme was almost complete, and as anticipated this became operational at the beginning of the present year

Some progress in the preparatory work for the Peterchurch and Longtown Sewerage Schemeswas made but it is unlikely that these schemes will be given approval before 1965. Also the Cusop Sewerage Scheme (jointly with Hay-on-Wye U.D.C.) is still in the preparatory stage; approval is not expected until the present year.

During the year 12 samples of sewage effluent from the Kingstone disposal works were sent for examination. Of these, 9 failed to comply with the Royal Commission standards.

During the year, 56 new drains were constructed. All new drains were tested by the public health inspector.

The chlorination of the sewage at the Madley ejector station was brought into action, but it was found necessary to also chlorinate the effluent before final discharge. Chlorination at these two points did produce an improvement in the effluent but the real solution is the reconstruction of the Kingstone sewage disposal works.

Rivers and Streams

The Rural District contains a number of rivers. The river Wye in the north forms part of the boundary of the area from Hay to Bredwardine. The Rural District is traversed by the Monnow, the Dore, the Escley Brook and Dulas Brook - all are clean rivers.

Four inspections of watercourses were made during the year.

Closet Accommodation

It is estimated that about 60% of the population have the use of water closets; about 20% is still obliged to use pail closets and the remainder use privies. The number of new water closets constructed during the year, excluding conversions, was 20. In addition 34 pail closets were converted to water closets. Every effort is made to convert conservancy closets wherever possible.

Public Cleansing

The Council provides a system of domestic refuse collection in the Rural District with the exception of Cusop parish. The collection is carried out fortnightly under contract. Refuse disposal is by tipping at King Street Quarry, Ewyas Harold. It is estimated that about 80% of occupied dwellings are included in this collection. In Cusop parish a regular domestic refuse collection is made twice monthly by the Hay-on-Wye Urban District Council.

The Council does not carry out cleansing of cesspools and privies. Such installations on the Council's own property are cleansed when necessary by contractors, and 32 such cleansings were carried out during the year.

Shops and Offices. Shops Act 1950. Sections 38 and 72(2)

No formal action was necessary under Public Health Acts 1936 - 61, or Shops Act 1950. Twentythree inspections of shops were made during the year.

One new shop was constructed and occupied.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the area.

Camping Sites - Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Camping causes no public health problem at the present time in the Rural District. One site was used for camping purposes during 1963 and conditions were quite satisfactory. The maximun number of campers estimated to be within the District at any one time was 150.

No licences were issued by the Council with respect to camping sites under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The only sites known to be used for camping are exempt from this section of the Act.

One site was licensed under Section 3 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed-bugs during the year.

Hydrogen Cyanide Regulations (Fumigation of Buildings) 1951

No notices were received under Article 3 of these Regulations during the year.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the Rural District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Public Health Inspector informs me that he is in difficulty in trying to discharge his duties as Public Health Inspector and Surveyor. He finds his responsibilities a considerable strain and there are aspects of his statutory duties which he is unable to carry out owing to pressure of work.

Apart from water supplies and sewerage, he is able to do very little about the other aspects of a public health inspector's work.

I am indebted to Mr. R.E. Moore, Public Health Inspector to the Council for the following tabular statement, furnished under Article 25(20) of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959:-

Inspections

Animals	=	2
Canteens	=	2
Control of Pests	=	18
Drainage	=	113
Drain Tests	=	55
Infectious Disease	=	1
Offensive Smell	=	1
Petroleum Stores	=	13
Refuse Tips	=	19
Schools	=	7
Sewage Disposal Works	=	280
Sewers	=	18
Shops	=	23
Slaughterhouses	=	2
Unsound Food	=	1
Water Supply	=	47
Water Courses	=	4
Work Places	=	55

Notices Issued

Informal	=	Nil
Statutory re Housing	=	Nil
Statutory under other Acts	=	Nil

Summary of Defects Remedied

Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	=	32
Ditches cleared	=	1
Domestic baths provided	=	46
New drains provided	=	56
Defective roofs repaired	=	24
Defective eaves gutters repaired	=	19
Disinfections after infectious disease	=	1
Defective windows repaired	=	7
Defective chimneys repaired	=	11
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	=	3
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	=	9
Closets repaired or renewed	=	10
Footpath channels cleared	=	7
New gullies provided	=	98

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued)

Inspection chambers repaired	=	1
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	=	15
New sinks provided	=	2
Soil pipes repaired	=	5
Sanitary fittings provided	=	11
Miscellaneous defects remedied	=	55

Petroleum Regulations

One new licence permitting the storage of petroleum spirit was granted during the year. One storage installation was closed during the year. There are now 37 such installations registered with the Council.

The number of inspections made was 13.

Agricultural (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

No inspections under this Act were made during the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a part-time handyman to inspect the Council's property, including the tip and sewage disposal works, and to give the necessary treatment. The following is a record of the work carried out during 1963:-

	Premises inspected	Total Infestations Mice	Rats Major	Rats Minor	No. of properties treated	Statutory Notices
Local Authorities' Properties	6	-	2	3	6	-
Dwelling Houses	2	-	-	2	2	-
All other (including business) premises	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	-	2	5	8	-

The Council dispensed with the services of the part-time Rodent Control Officer formerly employed jointly with two other Local Authorities. This work was placed on the Public Health Inspector who is unable to devote adequate time to the work. Properties not owned by the Council are not inspected. Only 18 inspections were made. The Council does not adequately carry out the duties imposed by the Act.

Factories Acts 1937 - 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1963 for the Rural District of Dore and Bredwardine, in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	9	5	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	22	10	-	-
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	75	306	-	-
Total	100	321	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

During the year 21 workplaces were removed from the factories register. These workplaces are building sites - the number varies continually. No factories were registered for the first time during the year.

Outworkers

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority.

SECTION D - HOUSING

During the year no Council houses were built, or under construction at the end of the year.

The Council houses completed and occupied are situated in the following parishes:-

Abbeydore	(Southview)	=	4
Bredwardine	(Orchard Place)	=	6
Clifford	(Church Road)	=	4
Cusop	(Coronation Terrace)	=	5
Dorstone	(Oaklands Place)	=	4
Ewyas Harold	(Callowside)	=	24
Ewyas Harold	(Elmdale)	=	16
Kenderchurch	(Grove Park)	=	10
Kentchurch	(Crabs Castle)	=	2
Kentchurch	(Parkside)	=	6
Kilpeck	(Castle Park)	=	6
Kingstone	(Coldstone Cross)	=	88
Kingstone	(Green Lane)	=	45
Kingstone	(Highland View)	=	22
Longtown	(Penbailey)	=	6
Madley	(Archenfield)	=	59
Madley	(Shenmore)	=	2
Orcop	(Coppice Well)	=	6
Peterchurch	(Closure Place)	=	9
Peterchurch	(Wellbrookside)	=	22

Private owners completed 20 dwellings and had 11 under construction at the end of the year.

Temporary Dwellings

There are still 29 temporary dwellings occupied at Kingstone, but these are owned by an adjoining Authority.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	=	95
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	=	3
3.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	=	92
4.	Number of housing inspections.	=	95

Housing Act 1957. Sections 16 and 17

No demolition or closing orders were made by the Council during the year.

Housing Act 1957 - Part IV - Overcrowding

At the beginning of the year four dwellings were known to be overcrowded. During the year one new case of overcrowding was reported, so that at the end of the year five cases remained.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
Section 30

Twelve grants were made by the Council under this section for the improvement of dwellings.

These grants are discretionary grants and are made in suitable cases where the dwelling can be rendered fit.

Section 43

Four loans were made by the Council to assist persons in house purchase.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959. Section 4

During the year the Council made six grants under this section for the provision of standard amenities in dwelling houses.

Unfit Dwellings made Fit

Fiftysix unfit dwellings were made fit.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

The number of distributors registered with the Council under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations was 6.

There are no plants for the processing of milk situated in the Rural District, which is a specified area.

Ice Cream

No manufacture of ice cream is carried on within the Rural District.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream increased to 40.

Vehicles from which the sale of ice cream is made, continue to ply for trade.

Shell Fish

The sale of occasional jars or tins of preserved shell fish appears to form the sale of shellfish within the Rural District. No action was necessary with regard to the sale of this food.

Water Cress

No action was necessary in connection with this food.

Meat
Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

On 1st January, the appointed day on which all slaughterhouses were required to comply in full with the requirements of the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, the two private slaughterhouses in the Rural District ceased to be licensed.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Three licences for slaughtermen were issued by the Council during the year. One of these permitted the holder to slaughter swine and sheep, and two permitted the slaughter of swine only.

Food Poisoning

No notifications of food poisoning were received during the year.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16

The number of premises registered with the Council under this setion was two.

Byelaws as to the Handling, etc. of Food

No infringement of these byelaws was detected.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

All premises were complying with the Regulations during the year.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of acute notifiable disease in the Rural District during the year was low. Only 66 notifications were received, giving a notification rate of 8.5 per 1,000 estimated population. In the previous year, 20 notifications were received and the difference is due to the increased incidence of measles in the year 1963.

The District enjoyed freedom from scarlet fever, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, dysentery and enteric fevers throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter in 1963

Disease	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	2	3
Pneumonia	4	-	-	-	4
Measles	17	17	21	4	59
All Diseases	21	17	22	6	66

Measles

Measles were the most prevalent acute notifiable disease of the year, 59 notifications being received. The third quarter of the year was the period of maximum incidence, but there was little change in prevalence until the final quarter, when the number of notifications fell abruptly.

The measles notification rate for the Rural District is 7.6 per 1,000 estimated population. The number of males involved was 26 compared with 33 females. Most cases were children between the ages of 5 to 10 years.

The number of families involved was 36; half of these experienced one case each, and thirteen others experienced two cases. The disease was almost entirely confined to the parishes of Kingstone, Madley, Peterchurch and Dorstone. There was a clear history of contact with a previous case in 21 instances.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain Age Groups - 1963

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	35+	45+	65+	All Ages
Measles	4	5	10	3	9	23	5	-	-	-	-	-	59
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	4
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
All Diseases	5	5	10	3	9	26	5	-	2	-	1	-	66

Whooping Cough

Only three cases of whooping cough were notified, two from Madley parish and one from Kingstone. The patients were children under nine years of age and there did not seem to by any connection between the cases.

Pneumonia

Only four notifications of pneumonia were received. Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as a cause of death, four deaths being due to pneumonia. All cases occurred in the first quarter of the year.

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 37 cases of tuberculosis (27 respiratory and 10 non-respiratory) on the register. During the year 5 cases of respiratory disease were added, two cases being new infections. One case of respiratory disease and 2 cases of non-respiratory disease were removed from the register in 1963 - these having recovered. At the end of the year 39 cases (31 respiratory and 8 non-respiratory) remained on the register.

There were no deaths in the Rural District in 1963 attributed to tuberculosis.

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